that you speake seldome, and then to the purpose; and make it your busyness to be well versed in the orders of the House; and doe nothing that is dishonourable on any account. I cannot imagine what has made you an anti-courtier, when wee are sure wee have a Queen that is in no other interest than that of England. I conclude this with recommending to your perusall a book entitled 'Miscellanies,' by the late Lord Marquis of Halifax."

(To be continued.)

The Antiquities of Wallingford.

By John Edward Field, M.A., Vicar of Benson.

(Continued from page 99.)

IV.—ANCIENT HOUSES, Etc.

Buildings which present an appearance of antiquity are less conspicuous in Wallingford than in many towns of the same character. A cellar, probably of the early part of the 16th century, under an old house with projecting upper-storey, in the High Street, has already been noticed; as also has Stone Hall, with its Tudor front but slightly altered, adjoining the site of the Priory of the Holy Trinity. The "White Hart" in St. Mary's Street has an ancient carved doorway and original gables, with good ornamental pendants; and the west side of "The Lamb," in Castle Street, is of similar character; both being apparently of the earlier Tudor period. The buildings of "The George," in High Street, also show work of the same antiquity, and a large Tudor fire-place has lately been discovered there.

But more remarkable than any of these is the excellent specimen of a house of the time of Henry VIII.,* now called St. Lucian's, outside the mill-brook at the Lower Wharf. Each front is surmounted by three gables, and has two bay windows of two stories, battlemented; though one of these windows, on the east, has been modernised. The west front has, apparently, its original coating of stucco, ornamented with hearts and other devices; and the interior

* Parker, Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of Berkshire, 189.

has stone fire-places with four-centred arches. The old malt-house adjoining this house on the north is probably of the same period.

The picturesque alms-house, founded by William and Mary Aungier in 1681, outside the south gate, deserves notice also. It retains its original form, with three gables on its front, and its original plaster ornaments of good character.

The Town Hall, though modernised, is half-timber work of the year 1670, raised on pillars in order that the market might be held beneath it; as it was until the neighbouring Corn Exchange was built in 1856. The back part of the building, on the ground floor, was formerly the borough prison. On the west side of the Town Hall the pillory and whipping-post stood until about the year 1830,* and the stocks until a much later date. In the front, the pavement around the lamp towards the centre of the Market Place still shows the ancient circle of the bull-ring.

The complete change which has passed over the town in modern times is illustrated by the fact that a malthouse is said to have occupied at no distant date the central position on the west side of the Market Place, where are now the Bank and the adjacent premises. A highly interesting relic of Saxon Wallingford was found in 1879 in a garden at the back of these premises. There were traces of strong foundation walls of great antiquity, and several lesser remains, as a small iron chain, a hone or whetstone, and a little ivory comb, as well as numerous bones. Together with these was a seal of ivory, very perfect, and unique in character. It bears on a circle the bust of a bearded and bare-headed man, holding a sword, with the legend around it, + *Sigillum Godwini ministr.*, "The seal of Godwin the Thane." Above the circle are two seated figures one holding a sceptre, the other treading a smaller figure beneath his feet; presumably representing Christ, with His enemy as His footstool, seated at the right hand of the Father. The reverse of this upper part is blank; but the reverse of the circle is engraved, apparently at a different date from the obverse, with a seated lady raising her right hand and holding a book in her left, and the legend, + *Sigillum Godgythe monache D'o date*, "The seal of Godgytha the Nun given to God." The manner in which she is represented seems to indicate that she presided over a Convent of Nuns. There appears to be good ground for inferring that this was the seal of the great Earl Godwin, who was father-in-law to King Edward the Confessor, and

* Hedges' History of Wallingford, II., 40.

whose wife Gytha, here called God-gytha, spent her long widowhood in religious works. A large part of Wallingford belonged to King Edward, and we can scarcely doubt that there was a religious house here in his days; hence it may well be that Gytha was the head of it. All the circumstances, therefore, fit in with the supposition that this was her official seal, engraved upon the reverse of one which had belonged to her husband. It is now in the British Museum, and a representation of it appears in the frontispiece of Mr. Hedges' volumes.*

V.—THE BRIDGE.

The most complete embodiment of the history of the town during the last 600 years is to be seen in the structure of the Bridge. There is a tradition of a bridge having been erected here soon after the conquest of the district by the Saxons, and the history of Stephen's reign seems to imply its existence at that period; but there can be little doubt that the earliest stone bridge was that of which a large portion still remains, and that anything which existed previously was merely of timber. Richard, King of the Romans, the brother of Henry III., held the Honour of Wallingford from 1231 to 1271, spending his wealth freely upon the Castle and the town.† The oldest arches of the present bridge fully corroborate the opinion that he was the founder of it. Extensive repairs were made in 1530, when, as we have already seen, part of the Priory Church was bought by the bridgemen, and its stones were used for this purpose. During the siege of the Castle in 1646 four of the arches were removed, wooden drawbridges being substituted for them; and these remained until 1751. In that year an advertisement was issued "for proposals for casting two arches in the great bridge," and subsequently an agreement was made "for the doing the four arches in the great bridge"‡; as if two arches had been considered to be of primary importance and it was eventually decided to carry out the four. An engraving of the northern view of the bridge in the year 1803 shows that the usual triangular projections were carried up to the top of the parapet, affording security to foot passengers above, as well as breaking the force of the stream below. But in 1809 the three principal arches, over the main chan-

* See Hedges' History of Wallingford, I., 183-185.
† Ibid, II., 251.
‡ Ibid, II., 257.

nel of the river, were so seriously damaged by a flood that it was necessary to re-build them. At the same time the bridge was widened on the north side by an addition of about seven feet along its entire length, leaving the rest of the old arches undisturbed.

The westernmost arch, which may be examined from the landing-stage, is a good specimen of the thirteenth century, having its original deep ribs unchanged, and only altered by the extension of its width in modern work. The arches which were entirely rebuilt in 1809 are the third, fourth and fifth. The engraving of 1803 shows that the central one of these, previous to the re-building, had been ribbed like the arch of the original bridge already described. The second and sixth (the latter being the first on the land on the Oxfordshire side) demand special notice. Being the next adjacent to the principal arches on either side, they are precisely those which would be likely to be taken out when drawbridges were substituted at the siege; and this proves to be the case. They are of brick-work with stone facings; and over the further of them there was, according to Man's MS. of 1818, a stone tablet, recording that "The four wooden arches in this bridge were taken up and cast with brick and stone in 1751."* We have already observed that two of the four appeared to be of more importance than the others. The seventh arch is of older character, presumably of 1530; and next to it, on the south, opposite to the toll-house of 1809 on the north, there are indications of a projection as if there had been steps down to the meadow. This would seem to be the point referred to in a lease of the year 1715, providing "that the bridgemen shall repair that part of the bridge, with the doorway leading to Bridge-Eyot, by fixing a new door, and making a sufficient ladder or stairs for passing and repassing from the bridge to the Eyot."† Accordingly, clear traces of a channel may be observed leading towards the next (the eighth) arch, by which a watercourse, which is now abruptly turned off into the river above the bridge, must formerly have passed under it. This and the ninth arch are evidently of the year 1530; and as many as nine fragments from the Norman Priory, with diaper work or chevron ornament, may be counted in them. The tenth is another example of what we presume to be the work of Richard, King of the Romans, like the first, having its original vault with four massive ribs. The eleventh is arched with brick, upon older

* Hedges' History of Wallingford, II., 261.
† Ibid, II., 257.

side-walls; and it has the hollow of an old watercourse leading towards it. This, therefore, may be taken as a third arch of 1751, where a drawbridge had been substituted. Close to it is a buttress which may be of the year 1530. To the same period, 1530, the twelfth and thirteenth arches belong, and three or four fragments of Norman work appear in them, though the former of them has been patched and partly rebuilt in later work. The fourteenth is like the first and tenth, one of the fine ribbed arches of the original bridge built in the 13th century. The fifteenth is chiefly of brick, but partly of older work, and having a piece of ancient sculpture on the keystone on its northern front below the modern extension; while the sixteenth is of similar character. Since this last covers the channel of the one separate watercourse which has continued to exist almost to the present day, we may conclude that it is the fourth arch that was taken down at the siege and replaced in 1751, and that the next arch was rebuilt or largely repaired at the same period. It is interesting thus to be able to identify all the four arches for which the drawbridges were substituted; namely, the second and sixth, being the arches next on either side to the three which cross the principal channel of the river; and the eleventh and sixteenth, each of which crossed an outlying channel.

There are, in addition, three small culverts running beneath the road as it approaches the actual bridge from the east. They may or may not be ancient; but they may be supposed at least to represent the three remaining arches of the nineteen which the old bridge possessed, as described by Lysons in 1806, and by other writers of the same period. But Letters Patent of the thirteenth year of Elizabeth, providing for the tolls to be taken on the bridge for its maintenance, specify "twenty stone arches."* There may well have been an additional arch at the Wallingford end; and through it may perhaps have flowed the watercourse from beneath the east front of the Castle (the same, in fact, that drove the Castle mills), which is now turned off at an angle and carried out in a culvert beneath the landing-stage. At any rate there was an eyot at this end of the bridge, known as the "Chapel Eyot," and mentioned in the Corporation Ledger in 1533.† The present landing-stage may very probably represent it, while the channel which separated it may have flowed through the first of the existing arches, or (as looks more likely) through an arch further west which has disappeared.

* Hedges' History of Wallingford, II., 259.
† Ibid, II., 255.

We must also infer from the mention of the Chapel Eyot that the bridge had the usual appendage of a Chapel at its entrance; and there can be little doubt that it was identical with "the Mary of Grace," or "Mary Grace," so called to distinguish it (we may presume) from the two parish churches of St. Mary. Repairs were "done upon the causey under the Mary of Grace" in the 23rd year of Henry VIII.* Supposing therefore that this "causey," or causeway, was a raised path beside the roadway, it would seem that the chapel was built alongside of the bridge (though we cannot say on which side), on a small eyot formed by the westernmost channel of the river, and so raised that the causeway passed *under* it. Possibly the expression merely implies that the causeway was close beneath the chapel wall. More probably it means that it passed actually under a portion of the chapel. Certainly it does not imply that the chapel was built over the roadway of the bridge as well as over the causeway, though this may possibly have been the case. The Mary Grace, like the adjacent church of St. Peter, was destroyed by the guns of the parliamentary troops in the civil war.

* Hedges' History of Wallingford, II., 255.

Early Charters and Documents relating to the Church and Manor of Bisham, Berks.

By Mr. Nathaniel Hone.

(Continued from page 108, Vol. III.)

DURING the period that the estates of the Templars were in the hand of the King, it is satisfactory to find that (if we may so term them) vested interests were respected, and that the claims for pensions and corrodies[1] charged on the Manors

1 A corrody was a fixed annual payment in money or kind due from a religious house to a benefactor or one who had given his service to the community.